

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A wagering system, comprising:
a first wagering facility that comprises ~~a first plurality of betting terminals~~ **a first totalisator** and that is communicably coupled with a network, the first wagering facility operable to:

receive a bet on a wagering event hosted by a second wagering facility that comprises a second ~~plurality of betting terminals~~ **totalisator**; and

transmit the bet to the second wagering facility via the network; and

a clearinghouse communicably coupled with the network and operable to:

capture audit information associated with the bet from the network;

store one or more contract parameters between the first and second wagering facilities;

receive a result of the wagering event; and

determine a settlement between the first and second wagering facilities based at least in part upon the result, the one or more contract parameters, and at least a portion of the audit information associated with the bet.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, the system further comprising a third wagering facility operable to:

receive a second bet on the wagering event hosted by the second wagering facility;
and

transmit the second bet to the second wagering facility via the network; and

the clearinghouse further operable to capture audit information associated with the second bet from the network.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 4, wherein:
the one or more contract parameters between the first and second wagering facilities define a first fee charged by the second wagering facility to the first wagering facility; and

the clearinghouse is further operable to:

store one or more second contract parameters between the third and second wagering facilities, the one or more second contract parameters defining a second fee charged by the second wagering facility to the third wagering facility; and

determine a second settlement between the third and second wagering facilities based at least in part upon the result, the one or more second contract parameters, and the audit information associated with the second bet.

6. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, the bet comprising a first bet and the first wagering facility further operable to:

receive a second bet on the wagering event hosted by the second wagering facility;

transmit the second bet to the second wagering facility via the network; and

the clearinghouse further operable to capture audit information associated with the second bet from the network.

7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, the network comprising a plurality of hubs, wherein one of the plurality of hubs is associated with the first wagering facility and a second of the plurality of hubs is associated with the second wagering facility.

8. **(Original)** The system of Claim 7, the clearinghouse comprising one of the plurality of hubs.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, the first wagering facility operable to receive the bet from a third wagering facility.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 1, wherein the contract parameters comprise at least a simulcast fee owed by the first wagering facility to the second wagering facility.~~ Claim 5, wherein the first fee is a first simulcast fee and the second fee is a second simulcast fee that is different from the first simulcast fee.

11. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the audit information comprises one or more of:

- a transaction identifier;
- an identifier of the first wagering facility;
- an identifier of the second wagering facility;
- a terminal identifier;
- an identifier of the wagering event;
- an amount of the bet; and
- a time stamp.

12. **(Original)** The system of Claim 6, wherein the first wagering facility transmits the first bet separately from the second bet.

13. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the wagering event comprises a horse race and the first wagering facility comprises a horse track and the second wagering facility comprises an off-track betting parlor.

14. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the bet transmitted by the first wagering facility is encrypted and the clearinghouse is further operable to decrypt the bet to capture the audit information.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse is further operable to store a first account for the first wagering facility, to store a second account for the second wagering facility, and to transfer funds between the first and second accounts based at least in part upon the settlement determination.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse is further operable to initiate an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction based at least in part upon the settlement determination.

17. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, the first wagering facility further operable to transmit the bet to the second wagering facility in real time in response to receiving the bet.

18. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, the clearinghouse further operable to store the audit information in an audit log.

19. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse operable to capture the audit information associated with the bet from the network comprises the clearinghouse operable to monitor network traffic.

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse operable to capture the audit information associated with the bet from the network comprises the clearinghouse operable to receive a copy of the bet from the first wagering facility.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A clearinghouse communicably coupled to a first wagering facility and a second wagering facility using a network, the clearinghouse comprising:

a memory operable to store one or more contract parameters between the first wagering facility and the second wagering facility, wherein the first wagering facility comprises a first ~~plurality of betting terminals~~ totalisator and the second wagering facility comprises a second ~~plurality of betting terminals~~ totalisator; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operable to:

capture audit information associated with a bet placed at the first wagering facility, wherein the bet is associated with a wagering event hosted by the second wagering facility;

receive a result of the wagering event; and

determine a settlement between the first and second wagering facilities based at least in part upon the result, the one or more contract parameters, and the audit information associated with the bet.

22. **(Original)** The clearinghouse of Claim 21, wherein:

the memory is further operable to store a first account associated with the first wagering facility and a second account associated with a second wagering facility; and

the processor is further operable to transfer funds between the first and second accounts based at least in part upon the settlement determination.

23. **(Original)** The clearinghouse of Claim 21, wherein the audit information comprises one or more of:

a transaction identifier;

an identifier of the first wagering facility;

an identifier of the second wagering facility;

a terminal identifier;

an identifier of the wagering event;

an amount of the bet; and

a time stamp.

24. **(Original)** The clearinghouse of Claim 21, wherein the wagering event comprises a horse race, the second wagering facility comprises a horse track, and the first wagering facility comprises one of a horse track and an off-track betting parlor.

25. **(Original)** The clearinghouse of Claim 21, wherein the contract parameters comprise at least a simulcast fee owed by the first wagering facility to the second wagering facility.

26. **(Currently Amended)** A method for settling accounts between a first wagering facility and a second wagering facility, the method comprising:

storing one or more contract parameters between the first wagering facility and the second wagering facility, wherein the first wagering facility comprises a first ~~plurality of betting terminals~~ **totalisator** and the second wagering facility comprises a second ~~plurality of betting terminals~~ **totalisator**;

capturing audit information from a network that couples the first wagering facility to the second wagering facility, wherein the audit information is associated with a bet placed at the first wagering facility and the bet is associated with a wagering event hosted by the second wagering facility;

receiving a result of the wagering event; and

determining a settlement between the first and second wagering facilities based at least in part upon the result, the one or more contract parameters, and the audit information associated with the bet.

27. **(Original)** The method of Claim 26, further comprising:

storing a first account associated with the first wagering facility;

storing a second account associated with a second wagering facility; and

transferring funds between the first and second accounts based at least in part upon the settlement determination.

28. **(Original)** The method of Claim 26, further comprising initiating an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction based at least in part upon the settlement determination.

29. **(Original)** The method of Claim 26, wherein the audit information comprises one or more of:

- a transaction identifier;
- an identifier of the first wagering facility;
- an identifier of the second wagering facility;
- a terminal identifier;
- an identifier of the wagering event;
- an amount of the bet; and
- a time stamp.

30. **(Original)** The method of Claim 26, wherein the wagering event comprises a horse race, the second wagering facility comprises a horse track, and the first wagering facility comprises one of a horse track and an off-track betting parlor.

31. **(Original)** The method of Claim 26, the contract parameters comprising at least a simulcast fee owed by the first wagering facility to the second wagering facility.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, ~~wherein the bet is placed at one of the first plurality of betting terminals.~~ **Claim 5, wherein the first fee is a first commission fee and the second fee is a second commission fee that is different from the first commission fee.**